# City and Borough of Peterborough.

## Medical Officer's Annual Report, 1897.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

734 births and 470 deaths were registered in 1897; 45 deaths, those of strangers, must be deducted from the above total to ascertain the true death rate per 1000 living. Estimating the population of Peterborough at 28088, the following returns are obtained;—

General Birth Rate.....26·13

,, Death Rate .....15·13

As regards my estimate of the population for 1897, I am of an opinion that the usual method of mathematical calculation, based upon the average between 1881 and 1891, gives too small a result.

Owing to the rapid extension of the Brick Industry, a very large influx of people has taken place; the number of houses recently erected or now in process of construction is truly astonishing. As a rough guess I should say 30,000 would more accurately represent the present Census of Peterborough. Taking that fact into consideration, the death rate 15·13 is not by any means a high one, when we find that the corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales is 17·4

For purpose of comparison the following returns are given:—

| | North Ward. | East Ward. | South Ward. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Area in acres ..... | 1030 | 510 | 278 |
| Population (calculated to middle of 1897) ..... | 15376 | 9596 | 3116 |
| Births (total)..... | 873 | 267 | 85 |
| Deaths ,, ..... | 202 | 149 | 34 |
| General Birth Rate | 24·31 | 27·82 | 27·27 |
| ,, Death Rate | 13·13 | 15·52 | 10·90 |
| Deaths from Zymotic Diseases(total) | 27 | 23 | 1 |
| Zymotic Death Rate | 1·75 | 2·39 | ·35 |

### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Although there has been a very considerable diminution in the number of Infectious Diseases notified 191) against 571 in 1896), yet the total number of Deaths registered under this heading was much higher, viz. 51; Measles and Whooping Cough being chiefly responsible for this increase. The North and East Wards were the sufferers, only one fatality from Zymotic Diseases having occurred in the South Ward.

*Small Pox.* We still continue to enjoy a complete immunity from this loathsome scourge; whilst Epidemics still break out in different towns, it behoves us to be fully prepared for any similar visitation. I therefore make periodical Inspections of the Small Pox Hospital to ensure that everything is in working order.

*Typhoid Fever.* Eight cases with three deaths were registered. In every instance a strict investigation into the whole surroundings was made, and any sanitary defects that existed were at once promptly remedied. One patient most certainly contracted Typhoid at Lynn. Some old premises in Boongate, where the disease had several times broken out, have at last been pulled down, to be replaced by more modern buildings.

*Diphtheria.* Some decrease in this class of Zymotic Disease has occurred, 34 notifications with only 2 deaths. The reduced mortality is particularly striking, as both deaths took place in the same house, where the sanitary conditions were simply deplorable, the inmates being compelled to drink well water distinctly contaminated with Sewage. Action was at once taken to have the necessary improvements carried out, and a complete supply of Braceborough Water laid on.

*Scarlet Fever.* The epidemic of this disease is slowly dying out; 108 cases in 1897 against 498 in 1896, and only one death. Most notifications are now reported from the North Ward, and as the commencement was in the south part of the town, I can only hope the termination will be in the opposite direction. It has not been found necessary to close any Schools during the past year.

---

Two very serious epidemics of Typhoid Fever have taken place, one at Kings' Lynn and the other at Maidstone, in each case the *fons et origo* being contaminated water. A slight feeling of doubt having been expressed by a few nervous citizens, as to the purity of our own supply, it was deemed advisable to have the Braceborough water thoroughly Analysed by the Borough Analyst. The satisfactory result of his investigations at once dispelled all anxiety on the subject, and I think the Corporation may be congratulated upon possessing one of the finest springs of water in England, and one moreover that is never liable to be contaminated by surface drainage.

The Bye-Law regulating the supply of water to every house in the Borough having received the confirmation of the Local Government Board, its regulations should be speedily carried into force, every dwelling would then have a plentiful supply of wholesome water, both for drinking purposes and for domestic use. The consumption of water from surface wells is always attended with danger, the water being liable to contamination at every rainfall.

I think that it is highly desirable that the milk supply of the Borough should receive prompt attention. Such an invaluable article of diet to all classes of the community, especially the young and the invalids may be seriously affected by unwholesome surroundings. The Registration and Periodical Inspection of all places where milk is publicly offered for sale would I think be an initial step in the right direction.

The final approval of the plans for the proposed Hospital for Infectious Diseases by the Local Government Board, is now the only impediment; that having been obtained, no doubt the erection of that much needed Institution will be at once proceeded with.

In conclusion I am of opinion that the present sanitary condition of the town is excellent. Sanitary Science though is constantly making such startling discoveries, that improved regulations are necessary to keep up to date.

I have the honor to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. W. JOLLY,

Medical Officer of Health.

*TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1897, in the Peterborough Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.*

| Names of Localities. | Mortality from all causes at subjoined Ages: At all Ages | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15 | 15 and under 25 | 25 and under 65 | 65 and upwards | Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 years of Age. | Small Pox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Membranous Croup. | Fevers. Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid. | Continued. | Relapsing. | Puerperal. | Cholera. | Erysipelas. | Measles. | Whooping Cough. | Diarrhœa & Dysentery. | Rheumatic Fever. | Phthisis. | Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. | Heart Disease. | Cancer. | Injuries. | All other Diseases. | TOTAL. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NORTH WARD..... | 202 | 56 | 33 | 8 | 8 | 51 | 46 | Under 5 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 10 | 3 | ... | 2 | 25 | 1 | 1 | ... | 34 | 87 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 15 | 19 | 15 | 11 | 6 | 45 | 115 |
| EAST WARD..... | 149 | 38 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 41 | 44 | Under 5 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 12 | 1 | 7 | ... | 1 | 10 | ... | ... | ... | 30 | 63 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 22 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 36 | 86 |
| SOUTH WARD..... | 34 | 9 | 3 | 1 | ... | 11 | 10 | Under 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 12 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 6 | 3 | ... | 2 | 10 | 22 |
| INFIRMARY..... | 9 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | Under 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | ... | 2 | 8 |
| WORKHOUSE ..... | 31 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 10 | 20 | Under 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 16 | 31 |
| TOTALS ..... | 425 | 103 | 54 | 18 | 12 | 116 | 122 | Under 5 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 21 | 11 | 11 | ... | 3 | 38 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 72 | 163 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 26 | 52 | 32 | 25 | 13 | 109 | 262 |
| Deaths occuring within the district among persons not belonging thereto. | 45 | 1 | ... | 1 | 4 | 27 | 12 | Under 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 21 | 44 |

*TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Peterborough Urban Sanitary District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.*

| Names of Localities. | Population at all Ages: Census 1891. | Estimated to middle of 1897. | Registered Births. | Aged under 5 or over 5. | New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health: Small Pox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Membranous Croup. | Fevers. Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid. | Continued. | Relapsing. | Puerperal. | Cholera. | Erysipelas. | Number of such Cases Removed from their homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital: Small Pox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Membranous Croup. | Fevers. Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid. | Continued. | Relapsing. | Puerperal. | Cholera. | Erysipelas. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NORTH WARD..... | 13758 | 15376 | 373 | Under 5 | ... | 20 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 56 | 25 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| EAST WARD..... | 8622 | 9596 | 267 | Under 5 | ... | 8 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 10 | 3 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| SOUTH WARD..... | 2792 | 3116 | 85 | Under 5 | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| INFIRMARY..... | ... | ... | ... | Under 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| WORKHOUSE ..... | ... | ... | 9 | Under 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| TOTALS ... | 25172 | 28088 | 734 | Under 5 | ... | 32 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | 5 upwds. | ... | 76 | 28 | ... | ... | 8 | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 37 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

BOROUGH SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,

PETERBOROUGH,

11th March, 1898.

*To the Urban District Council of the City and Borough of Peterborough.*

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

During the past year certain Bye-Laws have been adopted by you which will greatly tend to advance the Sanitary condition of the Borough, reference was made to the desirability of taking these measures in my Report of last year, they are:—

(1) That with reference to the supply of Water to Water Closets. During the past 12 months a number of Water Closets which were found to be in an offensive condition consequent upon insufficient flushing, have had water laid on to them, there are however a large number not so provided; when all the Water Closets in the Borough are properly flushed I am of opinion that the offensive emissions from the Manholes will be less objectionable; some time ago you issued regulations requiring that the Water Closet flushing cisterns should be mercased from 2 to 3 gallons capacity, this measure will also assist in more efficiently cleansing the drain.

(2) The other Bye-Law referred to is that with respect to the keeping of Swine; I am glad to think you have adopted this, as, although some of the inhabitants may consider themselves injuriously affected by it, a much greater number will be benefited; the keeping of pigs in objectionable situations has always been a subject of much complaint.

The completion of the Sewer now in hand at Cemetery Road, Woodstone, will enable the several houses there, which are within the Borough, to be efficiently drained, and the several privies belonging to them, many of which are very near the houses, to be converted into Water Closets.

Many of the privies referred to in my last year's Report have been done away with, the few which still exist are situate at a considerable distance from any dwelling house, several of them are now being dealt with.

Several additional Sewer Ventilating Shafts have been erected and others are in course of erection; there are now 58 such shafts; in no case during the past 12 months was the Manhole from which they were taken entirely closed, and no complaint with respect thereto has reached me.

The Flushing of the Sewers has been systematically attended to and several improvements have been effected therein; the automatic flushing tanks continue to work efficiently, in some towns the Authority undertake the periodical flushing of all house drains to the manifest advantage of the inhabitants generally.

Accompanied by the Medical Officer of Health, periodical visits have been made to such localities in the Borough where recurring nuisances were likely to be found.

Several dirty and unhealthy houses have been visited, in all such cases immediate action was taken; as a rule I have found owners and occupiers of premises ready to assist in carrying out my instructions.

The amount of house refuse removed during the 12 months has been 4930 loads an increase of 757 loads upon last year's collection.

17 Houses have been Disinfected and the Disinfecting Stove used on 32 occasions.

Another year has passed without occasion to use the Small Pox Hospital.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. WALSHAW,

Sanitary Inspector.

1897.

# City & Borough of Peterborough

# REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR.